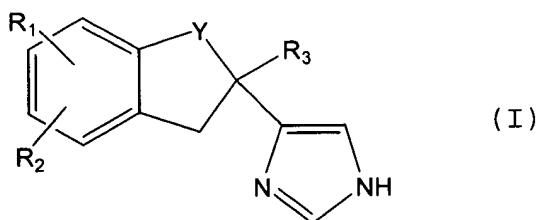


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

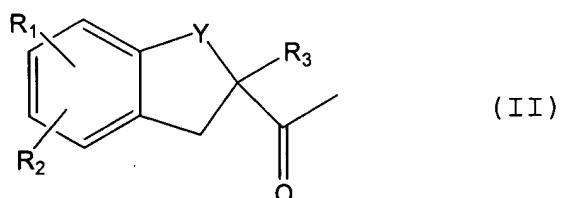
Please amend claims 3-7 and 10, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which are, or were, in this application:

1. (Original) A process for preparing substituted imidazole derivatives of formula (I) and acid addition salts thereof

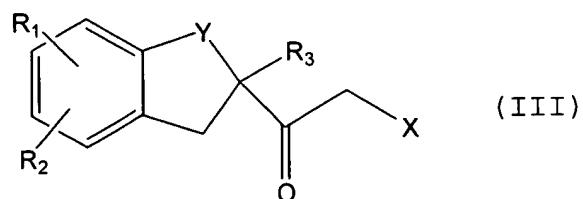


in which formula Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ,  $\text{R}_1$  is H, halogen or hydroxy,  $\text{R}_2$  is H or halogen and  $\text{R}_3$  is H or lower alkyl, comprising the steps of

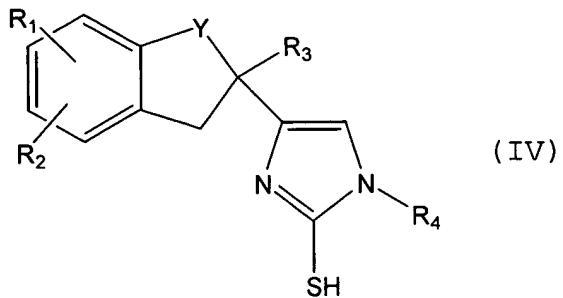
a) halogenating a compound of formula (II)



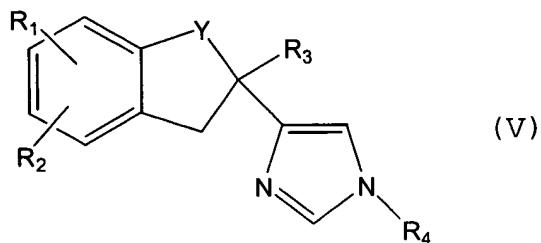
wherein Y,  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$  are as defined above, to obtain a compound of formula (III)



wherein Y, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined above and X is halogen,  
b) reacting the compound of formula (III) thus obtained with an  
amine of formula R<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is an easily removable leaving  
group, and an alkali metal thiocyanate, to obtain a compound of  
formula (IV)



wherein Y, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined above,  
c) removing the mercapto group from the compound of formula (IV) to  
obtain a compound of formula (V)



wherein Y, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined above,  
d) removing the group R<sub>4</sub> from the compound of formula (V) to obtain  
a compound of formula (I), and, if desired,

e) converting the resulting compound of formula (I) into an acid addition salt thereof.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein step a) is carried by reacting a compound of formula (II) with Br<sub>2</sub> in methanol at a temperature of -8 to +25 °C.

3. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein step b) is carried out by reacting a compound of formula (III) with benzylamine and potassium thiocyanate.

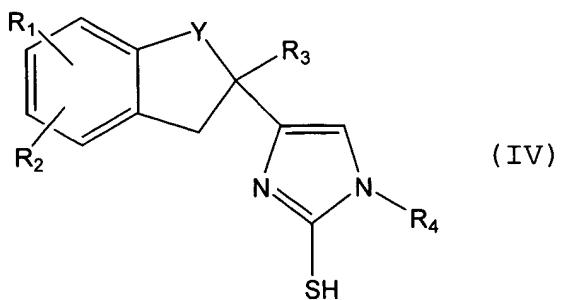
4. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein step c) is carried out in the presence of Raney-Nickel at a temperature of 40 °C to 90 °C.

5. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein step d) is carried out by using ammonium formate in the presence of Pd/C.

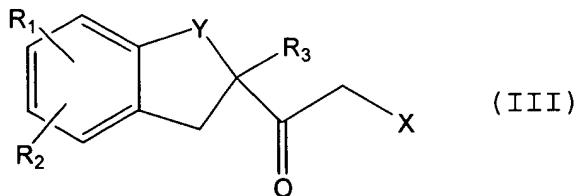
6. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein step d) is carried out by hydrogenation in the presence of Pd/C.

7. (Currently amended) A process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein Y is -CH<sub>2</sub>-, R<sub>1</sub> is F, R<sub>2</sub> is H and R<sub>3</sub> is ethyl.

8. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (IV)



wherein Y is -CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CO-, R<sub>1</sub> is H, halogen or hydroxy, R<sub>2</sub> is H or halogen and R<sub>3</sub> is H or lower alkyl, comprising reacting a compound of formula (III)

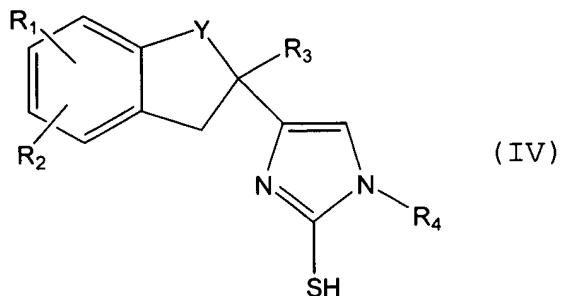


wherein Y, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined above and X is halogen, with an amine of formula R<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is an easily removable leaving group, and an alkali metal thiocyanate.

9. (Original) A process according to claim 8 comprising reacting a compound of formula (III) with benzylamine and potassium thiocyanate.

10. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 8 or 9  
wherein Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $\text{R}_1$  is F,  $\text{R}_2$  is H and  $\text{R}_3$  is ethyl.

11. (Original) A compound of formula (IV)



wherein Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$  or  $-\text{CO}-$ ,  $\text{R}_1$  is halogen or hydroxy,  $\text{R}_2$  is H or halogen,  $\text{R}_3$  is H or lower alkyl and  $\text{R}_4$  is an easily removable leaving group.

12. (Original) A compound according to claim 11 wherein Y is  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ,  $\text{R}_1$  is F,  $\text{R}_2$  is H,  $\text{R}_3$  is ethyl and  $\text{R}_4$  is benzyl.